

# XI.—STATISTICS OF FISH AND FISHERIES ON THE SOUTH SHORE OF NEW ENGLAND.

TABLE 1.—*Account of fish taken by Jason Luce & Co., at Menemsha Bight, Martha's Vineyard*

Kind.	1869—April 4 to June 7.	1870—April 14 to June 8.	1871—April 14 to June 9.	1872.
	No.	No.	No.	No.
Herring .....	52,500	*61,200	22,100	143,600
Tautog .....	275	500	1,242	1,000
Dog-fish .....	79,000	53,000	64,162	127,500
Striped-bass .....	125	150	250	400
Scup .....	380	70	684	1,011
Shad .....	300	550	125	.....
Mackerel .....	15,900	†150,000	60,800	2,050
Sea-robin .....	2,500	2,500	2,500	.....
Menhaden .....	1,590	1,375	3,200	3,800
Sea-bass .....	300	6,400	500	1,500
Salmon .....	‡2	.....	.....	3
Squeteague or weak fish .....	.....	14,000	23,000	45,700
Blue-fish .....	.....	4,000	7,000	1,000
Flounders .....	.....	.....	.....	10
Spanish mackerel .....	.....	.....	.....	470
Cero .....	.....	.....	.....	12

\* One-third English.

† 1,000 barrels.

‡ 1 April 27; 1 May 19.

Sea-bass are usually taken last of May. More taken in 1870 than for five years previous.

Seventy barrels of scup (1870) is the smallest catch in any year since we have been in the business.

More shad taken in 1870 than in all previous years taken together. Usually taken from April 25 to May 10.

Striped bass average 3 pounds. We call them sand-bass.

Usual number of sea-robins, 2,500 to 2,000 barrels. They are turned over the side of the pound as being worthless.

First blue-fish in 1871 caught May 26.

Menhaden are taken from April 21 to May 25; two in advance in 1871.

Scup taken from April 25 to May 18; in 1871, ten to fifteen days earlier than usual.

Striped bass in 1871, taken from April 18 to May 5; mackerel from April 18 to May 27; rock-bass from April 14 to May 10.

Blue-fish are first seen schooling in our bay by the middle of June. Very few are taken here, for the reason that they appear to be at home, and not traveling. Fish cannot be trapped unless they are on a course. I have seen acres of them all around our trap in the bay; but when the trap is hauled we get only fifty or a hundred.

Mackerel first taken in 1872, May 11; first scup taken May 10; squeteague, July 4; cero, September 15; salmon, May 29; sea-bass, May 28.

TABLE II.—General return of the Waquoit weir for 1871.

Day.	Weather.	TEMPERATURE.		Scup.	Mackerel.	Blue-fish.	Tautog.	Plaice, flat-fish, turbot.	Alewives.	Shad.	Menhaden.	Dog-fish.	Skate.	Squid.
		Air.	Water.											
March 24									1,840					
April 3									357					
6									6,400					
10									5,850	1				
11									2,340					
14									13,250					
17									7,000	23				
18	Fine	54	50		1	6	314	4,056	11				80	
19	Cloud	51	50			9	215	4,100	5				60	
20	Breeze, Rain	51	49			22	500	2,600	16				260	
21	Clear, Fog	59	52			5	230	2,300	2	6,000			110	6
22	Cloudy	60	51		1	9	565		1				20	
23	Cloud, Breeze	56	50											
24	Clear, Breeze	55	51			1				13,300				
25	Clear, Cloud	59	51		1	6	125	30				30	197	6
26	Clear	63	52		1		1						5	
27	Cloud, Breeze	50	52		2	11	26	30				212	132	
28	Breeze, Rain	50	51			7	30					204	20	
29	Cloud	54	51	3		27	64					476	80	
30	Cloud, Clear	57	53											
May 1	Cloud, Clear	56	52	6		5	163			17,420		381	200	400
2	Clear	58	54			3	35					201	175	2,500
3	Cloud	64	54				75		1			716	220	6,000
4	Wind, Rain	44	52											
5	Thick, Rain	56	52					49			35,920	162	170	200
6	Cloud, Breeze	48	52											
7	Cloud, Breeze	54	52											
8	Cloud, Gale	56	52											
9	Cloud, Breeze	55	52	2			42			10,020		988	525	
10	Cloud, Rain	59	52	27			2		3	16,800		307	138	400
11	Clear, Cloud	58	53							14,945				
12	Clear, Cloud, Breeze	60	54											
13	Cloud, Breeze	56	53	59	4		5		6	14,200	1,025	151		600
14	Cloud, Breeze	56	53											
15	Cloud, Clear, Breeze	59	54		8	3	15		17	7,300		39		2,000
16	Clear	66	54		5	12	4			900			22	3,000
17	Cloud	66	55				20							
18	Clear, Breeze	55	56		58	6	4		24	1,280			33	6,000
19	Clear	63	58		23	3	15		5	1,040			26	4,000
20	Clear	72	58		32		11		4	7,600		6	10	5,000
21	Clear, Breeze	68	60				16							
22	Cloud, Fog	73	61		85				4	6,000		50	40	1,500
23	Smoky	75	62		6			16		26,000	25	16		2,000
24	Smoky, Breeze	69	57			9		7		2,205		3	7	
25	Clear, Smoky, Breeze	65	57	2		3	7			780		1		2,000
26	Cloud, Rain	65	58											
27	Cloud, Breeze	62	60		11	2	7					2	34	
28	Clear, Breeze	65	62											
29	Clear, Breeze	67	62	1	63								31	
30	Thick, Breeze	72	62											
31	Cloud, Showers	78	62			2	1		1	40,300			22	
June 1	Cloud	65	62		11	1				13,260			3	
2	Fog, Breeze	66	63	1	83								5	
3	Fog, Breeze	73	63		66			1					3	
4	Cloud, Thunder	82	63											
5	Clear, Breeze	68	63		76	2							6	
6	Cloud	73	66		10	1							5	
7	Cloud, Rain, Breeze	76	66											
8	Fog, Rain, Breeze	68	66		1		20							
9	Hazy, Clear	80	66			27							30	
10	Clear, Breeze	75	67	48		25	2	1		7,540			20	
11	Rain, Breeze	81	67					40					20	
12	Fog, Breeze	64	67					10						
13	Clear, Cloud, Breeze	70	65	1	127								27	
14	Cloud, Breeze	70	66		68	1				27,300			2	
15	Cloud, Rain	60	64											
16	Cloud	73	65		81							93	3	
17	Clear, Cloud	75	64		31							19		
Total				151	227	691	148	2,578	50,153	124	270,222	4,790	2,923	35,612

NOTE.—The statistics of the Waquoit weir (Tables II to V) are taken from the report of the Massachusetts commissioners of inland fisheries for 1871. This weir was leased by the commissioners for the purpose of securing exact statistics on the subject of pound-fishing.

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TABLE III.—Return of dog-fish and blue-fish at Waquoit Weir for seven years.

	DOG-FISH.							BLUE-FISH.						
	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.	1871.	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.	1871.
April 9	1													
13	1				1									
15			1											
16														
17														
18		1												
19		1												
20		1				1								
21						1								
22	6													
23														
24														
25							30							
26	42													
27	15						212							
28	50						204							
29							476							
30														
May 1	208						381							
2	50						291							
3							716							
4														
5							162							
6			100											
7														
8														
9							988							
10							307							
11														
12	1,500													
13							1,026							
14										2				
15					1,000			100						
16													14	
17														
18			700		500								25	
19					1,000	500								
20			800		500		6	200		15				
21		800	2,000									100		
22							50							
23		200	200				25	203	1		230			
24		200	100				3	270		400				9
25							1	67		300	200	160		
26							2	62			200			
27								164			150	295		11
28										246	160	135		
29								94		164		150		63
30								146	6					
31								220						2
Total....	1,871	1,203	3,901		3,001	502	4,730	1,526	7	1,127	940	840	39	85

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TABLE IV.—*Consolidated returns of alewives, shad, menhaden, bass, blue-fish, and dog-fish, at Waquoit Weir, for seven years.*

Date.	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.	1871.
ALEWIVES.							
March 17 to April 20 .....	323,610	63,749	46,914	7,837	36,604	52,717	47,793
April 20 to May 29 .....	85,050	7,500	11,960	27,080	3,900	22,755	2,360
Total .....	408,660	71,249	58,874	35,517	34,504	75,472	50,153
SHAD.							
April 8 to 20 .....	26	33	63	13	7	62	56
April 20 to May 15 .....	645	269	340	1,642	439	523	30
May 15 to 31 .....				400			38
Total .....	671	302	403	2,055	446	585	124
MENHADEN.							
April 21 to May 15 .....	175,300	213,730	82,680	45,766	66,680	152,590	136,005
May 16 to June 2 .....	35,800	164,780	121,060	79,029	79,030	255,340	99,256
Total .....	211,100	378,510	203,740	124,796	145,710	407,930	235,261
BASS.							
April 14 to 20 .....	35						69
April 21 to May 15 .....	81	7	111	65	25	51	10
May 15 to 31 .....	10		18				7
Total .....	126	7	129	65	25	51	68
BLUE-FISH.							
May 14 to 31 .....	1,526	7	1,127	940	840	39	85
DOG-FISH.							
April 9 to May 6 .....	373	3	101		1	2	2,382
May 7 to 31 .....	1,509	1,200	3,800		3,000	500	2,408
Total .....	1,882	1,203	3,901		3,001	502	4,790

TABLE V.—*Days of first appearance of alewives, scup, blue-fish, and menhaden, at Waquoit Weir, for thirteen years.*

Year.	Alewives.		Scup.		Blue-fish.		Menhaden.
1859 .....	April	7	May	5	May	16	May 26
1860 .....	April	3	May	2	May	15	May 4
1861 .....	April	1	April	27	May	17	May 1
1862 .....	March	30	May	10	May	13	May 6
1863 .....	March	29	May	8	May	15	May 2
1864 .....	March	28	May	6	May	17	May 5
1865 .....	March	29	May	1	May	16	May 1
1866 .....	April	2	May	8	May	15	May 7
1867 .....	March	28	May	4	May	14	May 3
1868 .....	March	30	May	10	May	19	May 15
1869 .....	March	31	May	7	May	17	May 10
1870 .....	March	28	May	2	May	16	May 8
1871 .....	March	24	April	25	May	24	April 21

\* Dates when first plenty. The weir takes alewives when first set; probably some come a little earlier.

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TABLE VI.—*Account of blue-fish caught with a line by Josiah C. Pease about Edgartown, Massachusetts, 1865-1871.*

Month.	First fish caught.	Last fish caught.	Number of days in month.	Sum total of days.	Number of fish.	Sum total of fish in season.	Average per day in month.	Average per day in season.
1865.								
May.....	24th		6		58		9	
June.....			20		626		31	
July.....			15		796		53	
August.....			15		1,790		53	
September.....		24th	10		349		35	
October.....				66		2,619		40
1866.								
May.....								
June.....								
July.....	18th		11		913		83	
August.....			18		1,792		99	
September.....		24th	7		323		46	
October.....				36		3,028		84
1867.								
May.....	27th		5		176		35	
June.....			17		1,518		89	
July.....			21		1,695		80	
August.....		30th	11		333		30	
September.....								
October.....				55		3,722		67
1868.								
May.....	25th		5		392		78	
June.....			13		757		58	
July.....			18		1,148		63	
August.....			22		2,029		92	
September.....			17		464		27	
October.....		23d.	13		208		16	
				88		4,998		57
1869.								
May.....								
June.....	1st.		15		1,314		87	
July.....			22		1,913		86	
August.....			22		1,352		61	
September.....			16		304		19	
October.....		23d.	8		15		2	
				83		4,898		59
1870.								
May.....	30th		1		61		61	
June.....			14		557		39	
July.....			16		713		44	
August.....			21		942		45	
September.....			15		274		18	
October.....		18th	6		273		45	
				73		2,820		39
1871.								
May.....	29th		2		55		27	
June.....			23		962		42	
July.....			20		1,370		68	
August.....			19		1,570		83	
September.....		28th	15		500		33	
October.....				79		4,457		56
SUMMARY.								
1865.....	May 24	Sept. 24		66		2,619		
1866.....	July 18	Sept. 28		36		3,028		
1867.....	May 27	Aug. 30		55		3,722		
1868.....	May 25	Oct. 23		88		4,998		
1869.....	June 1	Oct. 23		83		4,898		
1870.....	May 30	Oct. 18		73		2,820		
1871.....	May 29	Sept. 28		79		4,457		
				480		26,542		55

TABLE VII.—*Account of fish landed at Barter's Wharf, Hyannis, Massachusetts.*

*1870.	Flat-fish.		Scup.		Blue-fish.		Bass.	
	Pounds.	Price.	Pounds.	Price.	Pounds.	Price.	Pounds.	Price.
April .....	10,463	\$142 81						
May .....	2,113	26 15	† 13,866	\$226 92			9,246	\$151 28
June .....			25,209	619 98			16,808	413 13
July .....					128,151	\$563 04		
August .....					31,147	797 13		
September .....					14,618	405 15		
October .....	\$31,851	797 10						
November .....	14,217	427 10						
Total .....	58,644	1,393 16	39,075	846 90	74,016	1,765 32	26,054	564 41
†† 1871.								
April .....	9,412	94 12						
May .....	1,841	18 41	4,953	83 73			3,306	55 86
June .....			35,063	572 85			11,687	190 95
July .....					36,251	623 02		
August .....					12,503	259 06		
September .....					10,513	251 17		
Total .....	11,253	112 53	40,016	656 58	59,267	1,126 25	14,993	246 81

\* Highest number of boats employed, 13.

† About all catching blue-fish.

† First scup caught May 21.

‡ All catching flat-fish October 10.

†† Highest number of boats employed, 25.

## AGGREGATES.

	Pounds.	Price.
1870 .....	197,786	\$4,569 79
1871 .....	125,529	2,142 17
Excess in 1870 over 1871 .....	72,260	2,427 62

TABLE VIII.—*Account of Austin Taylor, Hyannis, Massachusetts.*

*1870.	Pounds.	Price.	1871.	Pounds.	Price.
April .....	2,285	\$24 10	April .....	829	\$8 29
May .....	1,777	35 54	May .....	569	9 12
June .....	2,957	59 18	June .....	1,203	24 06
July .....	2,203	55 07	July .....	1,518‡	30 37
August .....	2,087	62 61	August .....	996†	19 83
September .....	208	24 27	September .....	847	21 10
October .....	1,481	57 47			
November .....	613	18 37			
Total .....	13,611	336 61	Total .....	5,961	112 77

\* Kinds not given.

## AGGREGATES.

	Pounds.	Price.
1870 .....	13,611	\$336 61
1871 .....	5,961	112 77
Excess of 1870 over 1871 .....	7,650	223 84

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TABLE IX.—*Account of Timothy Crocker, Hyannis, Massachusetts.*

	Pounds.
Shipment of fish by railroad to New York, in 1867.....	115,500
Shipment of fish by railroad to New York, in 1868.....	109,500
Shipment of fish by railroad to New York, in 1869.....	137,100
Shipment of fish by railroad to New York, in 1870.....	83,250
Shipment of fish by railroad to New York, in 1871.....	82,800

Men and boats employed: 12—15 each season.

TABLE X.—*Account of J. G. Loring, Hyannis, Massachusetts.*

	Number of pounds.	Average per M.
Shipment of fish by railroad to New York, in 1867.....	82,800	\$69 00
Shipment of fish by railroad to New York, in 1868.....	91,800	76 50
Shipment of fish by railroad to New York, in 1869.....	104,100	86 70
Shipment of fish by railroad to New York, in 1870.....	119,850	77 20
Shipment of fish by railroad to New York, in 1871.....	85,050	56 70

About twelve men and boats were employed in 1867-1869; and fifteen in 1870, 1871.

TABLE XI.—*Shipment of fish by railroad from Hyannis, monthly, to New York, furnished from the books of the company, by Luther Chase.*

Months.	1866.		1867.		1868.		1869.	
	<i>Barrels.</i>	<i>Boxes.</i>	<i>Barrels.</i>	<i>Boxes.</i>	<i>Barrels.</i>	<i>Boxes.</i>	<i>Barrels.</i>	<i>Boxes.</i>
January.....	21	15	8	6	1	1	65	13
February.....	47	8	5	1	2	2	28	12
March.....	23	14	3	4	1	2	50	23
April.....	5	8	30	4	49	5	31	13
May.....	435	114	135	67	165	66	267	29
June.....	432	265	251	71	753	183	636	221
July.....	16	32	139	141	260	166	429	230
August.....	8		39	5	41	53	176	59
September.....	24	1	106	14	77	29	26	15
October.....	36	8	148	2	74	4	116	1
November.....	15	2	41	3	79	7	42	10
December.....	18	11	30	15	25	8	57	10
Total.....	1,080	478	935	333	1,527	526	1,923	636
Total in pounds*.....	305,400		240,000		386,700		479,100	

  

Months.	1870.		1871.		Total.	
	<i>Barrels.</i>	<i>Boxes.</i>	<i>Barrels.</i>	<i>Boxes.</i>	<i>Barrels.</i>	<i>Boxes.</i>
January.....	5	10	11	14	.....	.....
February.....	3	10	12	12	.....	.....
March.....	15	17	44	22	.....	.....
April.....	186	13	236	34	.....	.....
May.....	295	23	292	17	.....	.....
June.....	1,154	366	551	391	.....	.....
July.....	233	214	170	269	.....	.....
August.....	119	193	119	71	.....	.....
September.....	94	17	94	117	.....	.....
October.....	263	4	263	4	.....	.....
November.....	111	10	111	10	.....	.....
December.....	26	13	26	13	.....	.....
Total.....	2,504	890	1,939	874	9,908	3,717
Total in pounds*.....	642,600		552,900		2,606,700	

\* According to the usual estimate at Hyannis, the box of fish weighs 300 pounds; the barrel 150.

† The record for 1871 only extends through August; we therefore take the figures of 1870 for the same months.

The above table includes the shipments by Messrs. Taylor, Crocker, Loring, Handy, and others, and consist in greater part of fish taken with the line. The figures for June, July, August, September, and October, relate almost exclusively to blue-fish.

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TABLE XII.—Statement of fish caught in the pound at Wood's Hole, Massachusetts, in 1872, by Wood's Hole Weir Company.

1872.	Herring.	Dog-fish.	Scup.	Mackerel.	Menhaden.	1872.	Spanish mackerel.	Ceros.
April 25.....	1,060	1	1			July 31.....	2	
27.....	2,000	22				August 2.....	1	
30.....	3,500	21				5.....	4	
May 3.....	1,000	4				8.....	2	
4.....	500	35				10.....	1	
7.....		107		1		13.....	7	
8.....		2,249		35		19.....	4	
9.....		3,650		4		20.....	3	
10.....		1,800	Few	15		21.....	2	
11.....		2,845	do	127		22.....	4	
12.....		6,074		131		23.....	596	5
13.....		3,411		3		24.....	69	4
14.....		516		1,800		25.....	76	14
15.....		225	Few	146		28.....	11	1
16.....		130	do	162		29.....	13	Few.
17.....			*10	1,700	*80	30.....	3	3
18.....			38	185	60	Sept. 2.....	37	6
19.....			Few	150	150	4.....	9	Few.
20.....			do	80	200	6.....	30	
23.....		Very few fish caught	to June 4.			9.....	29	
25.....					2,000	11.....	11	
June 5.....		Heavy gale from north east.				13.....	1	
9.....			*150			16.....	13	
10.....			175			19.....	8	
11.....			40			21 <sup>†</sup> .....	28	2
12.....			80			29 <sup>†</sup> .....		
18.....		Took in toff; plenty small scup;	few weak-fish.					

\* Barrels. † Barrels; mostly small. ‡ Eight boxes with blue-fish.



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TABLE XIII.—*Catch of fish at pound of Thomas Hinckley, West Falmouth, 1872.*

	Alewives.	Tautog.	Horned dog-fish.	Star-gem.	Shad.	Mackerel.	Scup.	Menhaden.	Sea-bass.	Smooth dog-fish.	Blue-fish.	Flounders.
April 26, 1872	3,000	1	1									
April 27, 1872	2,000	1	3									
April 29, 1872	200	1	9									
April 30, 1872	1,000		3									
May 1, 1872		3	14									
May 2, 1872	500	4	18									
May 3, 1872			2	1								
May 4, 1872	500	3			6							
May 5, 1872		2	5			1						
May 6, 1872	200	200	27			3	3					
May 7, 1872			5,000			3						
May 8, 1872			2,500			1	1					
May 9, 1872		5	2,000			8						
May 10, 1872			5,000			12	2	1				
May 11, 1872		400	1,500		$\frac{1}{2}$ bbl.	168						
May 12, 1872			600	100	$\frac{1}{2}$ bbl.	240						
May 13, 1872		600				500	5	2				
May 14, 1872	3 bbls.	600				66		3	3			
May 15, 1872			12									
May 16, 1872								75 bbls.				
May 17, 1872								250 bbls.				
May 18, 1872								450 bbls.				
May 19, 1872								600 bbls.				
May 20, 1872	Pound	full of menhad en.										
May 29, 1872	More	than could be sold										
May 30, 1872										100		
May 31, 1872								150 bbls.	2	800	3	
June 1, 1872								350 bbls.		800	10	
June 3, 1872								300 bbls.			1	3 bbls.
June 4, 1872									$\frac{1}{2}$ bbl.		15	
June 7, 1872								100 bbls.	5	50	45	
June 8, 1872								200 bbls.				
June 12, 1872								800 bbls.				

TABLE XIV.—*Date of first appearance of fish at the pounds and weirs on the south side of New England.*

	Dog-fish.	Mackerel.	Menhaden.	Alewives.	Tautog.	Blue-fish.
Newport, R. I.						
New Bedford, Mass.		1871, Apr. 25			1871, Apr. 10	
Wood's Hole, Mass.		1871, end April	1871, Apr. 23	1871, Apr. 14	1871, Apr. 19	1871, May 20
West Falmouth, Mass.	1872, Apr. 22	1872, May 9	1872, May 18	1872, Apr. 25	1872, May 9	
Menemsha Bight, Mass.*	1872, Apr. 26	1872, May 5	1872, May 10 1871, Apr. 21	1872, Apr. 26 1871, Apr. 12	1872, Apr. 26	1872, May 31 1871, May 26
Waquoit, Mass.	1871, Apr. 26	1872, May 11 1871, Apr. 18	1871, Apr. 21	1871, Mar. 24	1871, Apr. 18	1871, May 24
Nantucket, Mass.						1871, May 29
Hyannis, Mass.						
		Scup.	Shad.	Herring.	Squeteague.	Sea bass.
Newport, R. I.		1871, Apr. 18				
New Bedford, Mass.		1872, May 15 1871, Apr. 24	1871, Apr. 15	1871, Mar. 25		
Wood's Hole, Mass.		1871, Apr. 27			1871, June 1	1871, May 20
West Falmouth, Mass.		1872, May 10				1872, May 13
Menemsha Bight, Mass.*		1872, May 6 1871, Apr. 25	1872, May 4 1871, Apr. 25			1872, May 14 1871, end May
Waquoit, Mass.		1872, May 10 1871, Apr. 25	1871, Apr. 10		1872, July 4 1871, May 9	1872, May 28 1871, May 24
Nantucket, Mass.						
Hyannis, Mass.		1871, Apr. 22				

\* Situated on north side of Gay Head, end of Martha's Vineyard.